

~~SENSITIVE~~

CIA/SAVA /WVIND 700530



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 30 May 1970

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

For the President Only

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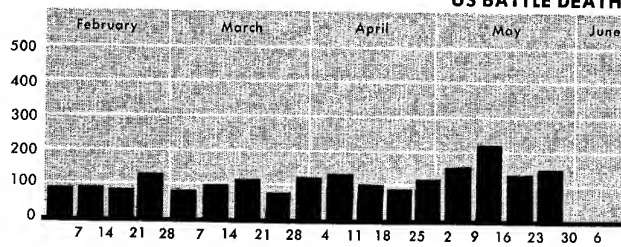
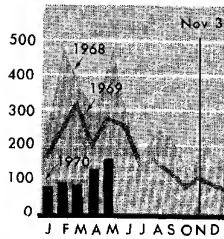
SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1970
Weekly average for each month

FEBRUARY - MAY 1970
Weekly data as reported

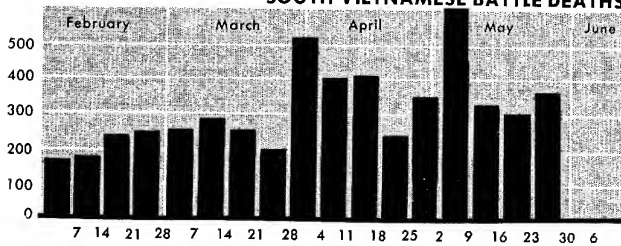
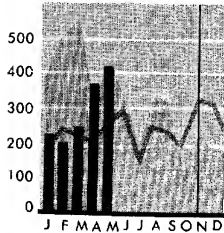
US BATTLE DEATHS

rose to 160 from last week's 142.



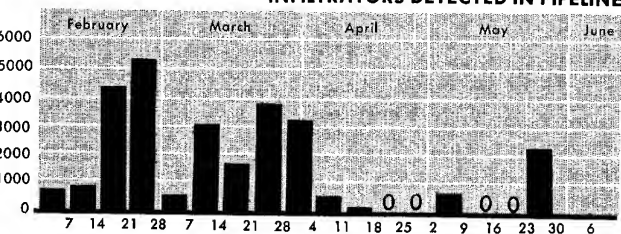
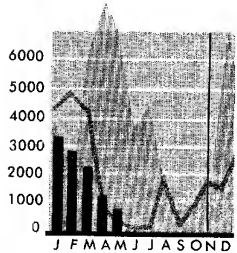
SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS

increased to 368 from last week's 308. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than figures released to the press by the GVN.



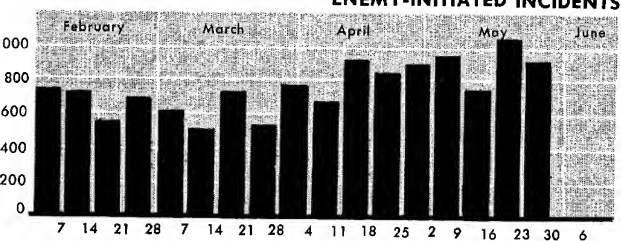
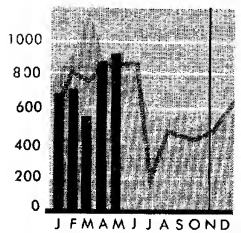
INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE

stand at three four-digit, one gap-fill, and two "QL" groups for a total of 2,375. The total number of infiltrators since 23 October 1969 is now estimated at some 59,500-61,000.



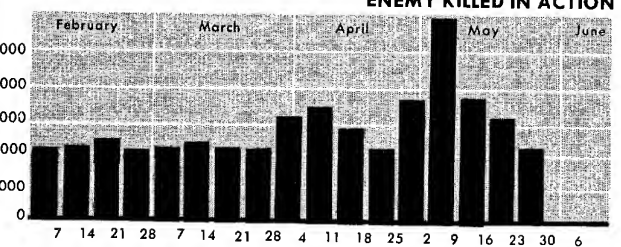
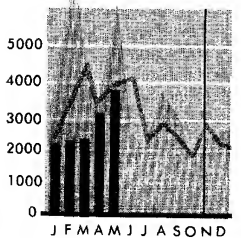
ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS

decreased slightly to 907 from last week's high for the year of 1,050 but continued to be of a harassing nature.



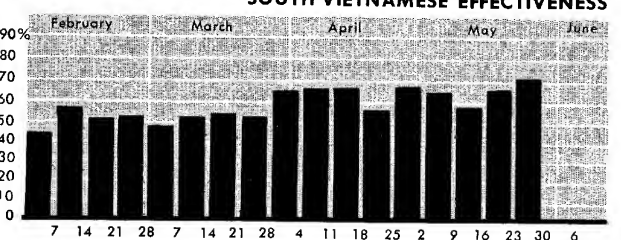
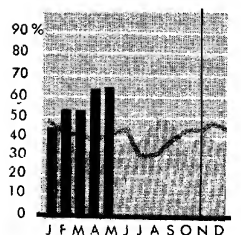
ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION

dropped sharply to 2,354 from last week's 3,321.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS

as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by RVN forces reached a new high of 72% compared to last week's 68%.



Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

In South Vietnam, the level of major enemy-initiated activity remained low, but the Communists were active in the countryside with harassing attacks against pacification and Vietnamization. The probe against Dalat (which technically came after the reporting week here covered) was the most notable such attack. Enemy forces continue to encounter difficulties as they make preparations for the final phase of their spring campaign scheduled for the first week in June.

In north Laos, friendly forces have launched preliminary efforts to recapture positions lost during the Communists' recent dry season campaign but are meeting stiff resistance from well-entrenched North Vietnamese troops who have been ordered to hold these forward sites during the current rainy season. To the south, some local successes have been achieved by friendly forces in the Bolovens Plateau area, but Saravane is still threatened.

With the exception of the heavy contacts at Prey Veng, Allied search operations in Cambodia are still encountering only light opposition; however, Communist forces deeper within Cambodia are maintaining pressure over widespread areas of the countryside via harassing attacks.

Enemy Infiltration

This week, three four-digit, one gap-fill, and two small "QL" groups totaling 2,375 personnel were accepted as being in the pipeline. These groups collectively constitute the first significant inputs observed since 8 April 1970. Additionally, those groups which had stopped at way stations in Laos, apparently as a result of Allied-Cambodian operations, have been ordered to continue their movement southward. It is not yet possible to determine whether the new detections presage a wholesale reopening of the infiltration pipeline or whether we are witnessing a repeat of last year's rainy season pattern, when less than 4,000 infiltrators were detected entering the pipeline from May through September 1969. To date, some 59,500 to 61,000 infiltrators have entered the pipeline since 23 October 1969.

South Vietnam Developments

The militant An Quang Buddhists have announced a continuing struggle movement with two ostensible objectives -- the attainment of "a peace of reconciliation" and abrogation of the decree which officially recognized the rival Quoc Tu faction as the chartered national Buddhist organization. A hunger strike now under way will be followed by a march on the presidential palace on 2 June. Future plans include a general strike. The leading An Quang monk, Thich Tri Quang, has disassociated himself from the activity, and has speculated that the agitation is being encouraged by political opponents of Thieu who wish to discredit the President. Although there is a potential for violent confrontation, the government appears capable of keeping this agitation under reasonable control.

Vice President Ky may disassociate himself from further initiatives in respect to relations with Cambodia. He reportedly has become discouraged over President Thieu's obvious reluctance to let him remain the principal point of contact between Lon Nol and the GVN. Ky believes that Thieu wants to keep Cambodian matters in his own hands and is trying, without much success, to coordinate activities concerning Cambodia entirely from his office.

A clue as to President Thieu's thinking in respect to future ARVN operations in Cambodia was contained in a report provided this week by our highly sensitive source in Saigon. In a 27 May conversation with Prime Minister Khiem, Thieu disclosed a plan to provide each soldier in Cambodia with Cambodian money to reduce the necessity for looting. Thieu calculated the requirement at 50,000 soldiers for two months, after which the number might drop to about 10,000. He added that the latter phase should not last too long since in the not too distant future ARVN would be conducting forays across the border instead of occupying Cambodian soil.

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